

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00

PRS-01 USIE-00 L-03 H-02 PA-01 /071 W

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O 192250Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3567

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2088

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GY US

SUBJ: CUBANA CRASH: DELIVERY OF PROTEST

REF: STATE 258529

1. I DELIVERED ORAL PROTEST AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL TO FONMIN WILLS AT 5:00 PM TODAY. AS I GREETED HIM, HE REMARKED THAT HE HAD JUST SPENT THE WORST DAY OF HIS LIFE. HE HAD COME OUT OF A CABINET MEETING FOR MY VISIT. HE THEN ASKED FOR THE "BAD NEWS." AS I READ THE MESSAGE, WILLS TOOK CAREFUL NOTES.

2. AFTER I FINISHED, HE SAID WHAT HE WAS ABOUT TO SAY WOULD NOT BE AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE, BUT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PERSONAL COMMENTS THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE AT THIA TIME. HE SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS TO MEND FENCES. HE KNEW THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS INVOLVED WITH ELECTIONS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PROBLEMS ELSEWHERE. FOR THE U.S., THE AIR DISASTER WAS NOT
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A MAJOR THING. FOR GUYANA, AND FOR GUYANA'S

LEADERS, IT WAS A TRAUMATIC EVENT. HE SAID:
"I HAVE NOTHING IN MY HEART AGAINST AMERICANS.
THERE WAS NO INTENTION BY GUYANESE LEADERS TO
ENDANGER THE SECURITY OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS.
I REGRET WHATEVER ILL FEELING THIS MAY HAVE CAUSED."

3. WILLS THEN ASKED ME TO REPORT THAT THE
PHRASEOLOGY WHICH U.S. OFFICIALS USED LAST WEEK,
I.E. THAT GUYANA HAD "STRAINED THE UNITED STATES
PATIENCE," WAS THE SAME TOUGH LINE THAT SECRETARY
OF STATE DUNZES WAS NOTED FOR. HE HOPED WE WERE
NOT STILL BACK IN THOSE TIMES. BURNHAM HAD
REACTED BADLY TO IT.

4. FINALLY, HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS PROMISE
THAT HE WILL INCREASE VIGILANCE OVER THE PERSONAL
SAFETY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL. HE ADDED EMPHA-
TICALLY GUYANA WOULD NEVER ALLOW ITSELF TO BE A
BASE FOR RUSSIANS OR CUBANS OR ANYONE ELSE.
THIS HE COULD PROMISE US.

5. WILLS THEN COMMENTED THAT IT APPEARED THE
CASE IN TRINIDAD WAS CRACKING. THE SUSPECTS
MAY HAVE CONFESSED. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD TOLD
HIM HE SHOULD PREPOSE TO GO TO TRINIDAD. IF THE
CONFESSIONS REVEAL THAT THE U.S. HAD NO LINKS
TO THE CUBAN EXILES, THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD
FIND HIMSELF EMBARRASSINGLY WAY OUT ON A LIMB.

6. WILLS SAID HIS TACTIC WOULD BE TO DELAY AN
OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE U.S. PROTEST UNTIL AFTER THE CABINET
MEETING OCTOBER 26.

7. COMMENT: WILLS WAS CORDIAL THROUGHOUT OUR
TALK AND APPEARED SINCERE IN HIS DESIRE TO IMPROVE
RELATIONS. WILLS' INTENTION TO DELAY A
RESPONSE, AS WITH NEARLY EVERYTHING ELSE HERE,
MUST BEAR THE CAVEAT, "IF THE CHIEF SO
CHOOSES."

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To: STATE
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